

Hi,

I would like to make a few suggestions for the content standards for seventh grade. The standard 7.4 states:

2. *7.4 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the sub-Saharan civilizations of Ghana and Mali in Medieval Africa.*

1. Study the Niger River and the relationship of vegetation zones of forest, savannah, and desert to trade in gold, salt, food, and slaves; and the growth of the Ghana and Mali empires.

2. *Analyze the importance of family, labor specialization, and regional commerce in the development of states and cities in West Africa.*
3. *Describe the role of the trans-Saharan caravan trade in the changing religious and cultural characteristics of West Africa and the influence of Islamic beliefs, ethics, and law.*
4. *Trace the growth of the Arabic language in government, trade, and Islamic scholarship in West Africa.*
5. *Describe the importance of written and oral traditions in the transmission of African history and culture.*

I would like to make the suggestion that the ideology of Kemet be added into the textbook. Kemet is the name of Egypt before it was renamed Egypt. Those who lived in Africa during this time era were educated under the principles of Kemet or the "Kemetic System". The Kemetic religion was one of rebirth with the idea that the soul was imprisoned in the body, attached by ten fetters, and the mastery of the ten virtues as well as the liberal arts would help the soul to break free of its physical confines and end the cycle of rebirth. This is why the subjects were called the "liberal" arts. In addition to the religious importance of studying the Mysteries, as they were called, Kemetic education was meant to produce an educated leadership that would shape the culture and philosophy of society. I believe that students should be aware of that Liberal Arts came from Africa during this time period.

Thank you,
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